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U.S. Hiding Truth On Cuba: Arends

People Being Kept in Dark On Red Forces, He Charges

An Illinois Congressman said Monday that the American people are being kept in the dark on the Cuban situation.

Rep. Leslie C. Arends (R) also charged that the United States lost the initiative in Cuba when it retreated from its on-the-site missile inspection demand.

Pointing out that the administration now estimates there are some

18,000 Soviet personnel in Cuba instead of its earlier estimate of 10,000 Arends said:

"If that many are still in Cuba, I don't think the administration is coming out with quite all the story the American people ought to know.

"There's a tendency to keep from the American people all the truth."

He said that even Congress



REP. ARENDS

did not know how accurate administration estimates of Soviet personnel and equipment in Cuba have been. "But we will soon be starting hearings before the House Armed Services Committee to find out," he said.

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IN HIS speech Monday noon before the Illinois State Nurserymen's Assn. in the LaSalle Hotel, Arends said:

"Cuba remains a very real Communist Russia military threat to the United States. The Cuban situation is fraught with more dangers than many realize."

He is the senior Republican on the Armed Services Committee and was a U.S. delegate to the NATO Parliamentarians Conference in Paris in 1961 and 1962.